Gate of Jerusalem City

THE G ATES OF THE FOUR-SQUAR CITY.

Rev.21:13"On the East were three gates; on the North three gates; on the South three gates; and on the West three gates."

When I learned of Mrs.Thompson's singing for us, at the close of the service, about the Four-square City, there came to my mind that wonderful sermon of Dr.Snowdens which I brot back from General Assembly ~~////~~ and gave to you one Sunday morning. And for a setting to that beautiful song I shall take the same text, Rev.21:13, and speak to you upon the theme,"The Gates of the Four-square Cty'. The memory of that great sermon of Snowden's may influence me somewhat, but I believe that another message worthy of our consideration can be drawn from the same text.

First let us consider the importance of the gates in those early days.

It was at the gates that the people met for business transactions and social intercourse. We read that, "Lot sat in the gate of Sodom"; that "Ephron answered Abraham in the audience of the children of Heth at the gate of his city"; that "Absolom stole the hearts of the men of Israel at the gate of the city"; that Ezra "read the law to the people gathered together into the broad pl place before the gate."

The gates were also used for the administration of justice and forthe audience of kkngs. We read that "the rebellious son is to be brot before the elders of the city at the gates."; that King David "sat in the gate and the people came before him":

Moreover the gate was the only point thru which the enemy could enter the city and also the only point thru whic the refugee could ~~////~~ gain admission.

The importance of the gates in those ancient days cannot be overestimated. Just as our flag, the Stars and Stripes, stands for the nation it represents, so the gates stood for the city itself.

"O enter into His gates with praise"- into the very presence of the Lord.

listen to Jacob at Bethel,"This is none other than the house of God, the gate of heaven"- heaven itself.

We read of the"gates of death", the gates of Jehovah" "the gates of righteousness".

The gates stood for strength, for power, for salvati for praise. "Thou shalt call thy walls salvation and thy gates praise".

Then there is the doxology of the psalmist,"Lift up your

heads, o ye gates, and be ye lifted up, ye everlasting doors, and the King of glory will come in."

The Four-square City of God refereed to in the text is the City of God, "the New Heaven and the New Earth", wherein dwelleth righteousness, coming down out of Heaven from God". It may be taken for the Kingdom of God about which Jesus spoke so often and for the establishment of which Christ claimed to have come to earth. Concerning which Jesus taught us to pray, "Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on earthas it is in heaven".
We therefore may live in this City of God here and now and it is our privelege to pass thru any and all of its gates on either of its four sides. By passing thru these these gates we learn to enter the Kingdom of heaven.

I. On the East three gates. 1. The East stood for the rising of the sun- Light, Wisdom. People looked toward the East for learning, knowledge, intelligence and truth. It thus stood for the fear of the Lord which is the beginning of wisdom; it stood for the One who is the Light of the world. The first to greet His advent were men from the East, wise wise men. This Light of the world declared that He was the Truth, the Way, the Door and thru this gate we must all pass if we would enter the Kingdom of Heaven.

2. The East also stood for the Throne or Dwelling-place of Jehovah. Three times a day did Daniel open his window and pray towards the East. The East, then, stands for the presence of God and we enter this presence thru the gate of prayer. How often did Jesus pray! and how often does the Gospel urge us tp pray without ceasing. This is just another way of telling us to pass thru this gate on the eastern side of the city of God,
When we thus practice the presence of God at all time we have at our command the strength of the Lord with which to face and fight the battles of life.

3. The third East Gate is the Gate of Service. The morning sun calls us to work. The dawn suggest something to be done. He who refuse to enter this gate knows nothing about the blessedness of living. No work, no pay; no work no eats; no work no play; no work no salvation. "Work out your own salvation." "Go work in my vineyard, said the Master. Over this gate hangs this inscription, "Bear ye one another's burdens." Passing thru this gate of service we receive the commendation, "Inasmuch as ye did it unto the least of these, my brethren, ye did it unto me."

II. The North ~~side~~ side also had three gates. The North suggests bitter blighting cold, and so the ancients symbolized it.

1. One of these gates might well be taken for Poverty and Want. It seems almost a contradiction to think of passing thr such a gate to enter the Kingdom of God! And yet Jesus declared that it was hard for a rich man to enter the Kingdom. And this same Jesus declared further that they that hunger and thirst shall be filled. The Christ also claimed that His mission was unto the poor and the lost. If your present possessions satisfy you, if they are as riches unto you, you will not seek further, but if they are as poverty to you, however much you may have you will seek after ~~more~~ the real riches of life and God will give them to you.

2. The second gate on the North side may be called the "Gate of Sorrows". We wonder why so much sorrow is in the world. There seems to be no purpose to it. And sooner or later every one of us must pass thru. We are constantly asking, "How can these things be?", or "Why should these things be?". But this gate on the bitter cold side of Life is one of the important entrances to the City of God. It is the gateway that leads from the Cross to the Crown. "These are they that came out of great tribulation and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb." The Master warned his disciples that in this world they would have much tribulation and sorrow, but that they should bear it all gladly for great would be their reward. Yes, this Via Dolorosa is one of the pearly Gates of Life that leads straight to the heart of Heaven. However dark and steep the way, it takes you to the right hand of the Heavenly Father.

3. The ~~other~~ other gate on the North side may be the Gate of Sickness and Suffering.

How illness transforms! How it changes the color of everything it touches. How it causes people to think and realize altogether differently from what they once did! The glory of Autumn coloring ~~near Placerville~~ in the Mt. Shasta region. The cold night air has glorified the whole region. Likewise the cold blast of sickness developes the beautiful and spiritual side of character. The experience of Bill Atkinson. His confession that if he had to live his life over again he would do differently, he would think more of others, especially of those in distress.

Sickness is an indication that there is something the matter, and we make an effort to correct it.

4. When we are well we never think of consulting a physicia when we have no tooth-ache we never go to the dentist. It is also true that when we are well and there is nothing the matter- all being sunshine and roses we ~~forget~~ do not feel the need of going to God for any help.

We ought to go to the doctors and dentists regularly for the purpose of keeping well and avoiding sickness. We ought to go to God regularly in order to keep right and avoid trouble and sickness and sorrow. But let us thank God for this gate of Sickness thru which we are led to the Healing Power of God, and which makes us realize that after all but little satisfaction is to be gained from living ~~sel~~ selfishly.

III. The West stands for the setting sun, eventide.

1. The first gate may be called Rest. In the morning we went thru the eastern gate to our work. Now it is eventide and we come to our rest. In this day of rush and dash we are apt to neglect the sacred duty of resting. I need not dwell upon the importance of sleep. Many of our cases of nervous wrecks could have been avoide had the victims taken rest properly.

The woman who went to her pastor on behapd of her husband who was beginning to break down. Thenmuch-needed vacation with no work on Sunday and attendance upon the services of the church completely retored that man to healt Some may smile about the going to church. Life is 4-square physical, mental, moral and physical. This man had neglected one side of his life- thespiritual. Going to church corrected that neglect.

There are thousands just like that man, they do not know what is the matter with themselves, it is lrgely that they are not taking rest of the right kind.

2. The second gate of the West- the Gate of Death. "Going West" What a significant expression. The sun sets but to rise again. We pass thru the gate of Death but to live on again. All must pass thru this gate but we need not do so alone or in fear. This Gate has a keeper who will take you safely thru. Jesus Christ who conquered death will go with you, if you trust Him. This also is a gate of pearl thru which we pass on from this sin-sick, war-stricken, suffering earth into the New Earth, the Kingdom of God wherein is to be found neither sin nor sorrow.

3. The third Western Gate may be called the Gate of Reward. After the toil and heat of the day comes the pay! How we all look forward to pay-day. "Rejoice and be exceeding glad, for great is your reward in heaven"

5. Sometimes it is hard for us to see beyond our trials and troubles the priceless reward of our effort. Often because we do not give God credit for what He does for us here and now we cannot see the riches that God has in store for us hereafter. But God is the rewarder of them that diligently seek Him and the pay for those who are in his service is more commensurate with the love and goodness of Almighty God than with the worthiness of effort and service which we have rendered. It pays to be right. It pays to be good and pure. It pays to live morally clean. It pays to serve God. May we all pass thru this Gate of Compensation.

IV. But there is still another side to the City of God- the South.

1. We think of the suth as the land of flowers and sunshine. Everything is beautiful there. This, then, is the Gate Beautiful. We pass thru this gate to enter the Beauty of Holiness, where we may see the King in all His glory! Oh, how much of the real beauty of life we miss by not passing thru this gate.

As a man is and thinks so he sees and hears. The pure in heart see God. Why could Jesus see in the dirty mire the beautiful lillies, and in the hearts and lives of sinful men- all covered with selfishness and greed and lust and hate- the beautiful images created in the likeness of God? Because Jesus Himself was pure in heart, because within His own soul dwelt the Father.

When we live our lives in the purity and goodness of God how much more of the real beauty surrounding us we can see. All nature seems different to us. We see more of God in the lives of others. We see greater possibilities in others. We ~~let~~ help others to see the goodness and beauty of God in all things.

2. The second South-Gate may be called prosperity. Where everything grows so luxuriantly as in the South surely there must be plenty. Yes, God wants us all to be rich, to have plenty. Jesus never condemned the rich, he only pitied them because in their riches they were poor afterall.
How thankful to God ought we to be for health, plenty and happiness. But these riches are not given to us just for ourselves. All riches are but entrusted to us with which we are to do good and help God build His kingdom on earth.

3. The last South-Gate is Freedom. Listen to the Psalmist pleading for his captive people, "Turn again our captivity,

as streams in the South." Heaven is to be a reign of Peace and good-will because all within have learned to obey God and live according to divine goodness, Truth and Love.

Shall we not enter these 12 gates into the City of God this morning with praise? Why remain outside the City and waste our lives on the desert sands of earthy existance? Why not enter at once thru consecration to God thru Him who is the Way and the Door? - the gateway into Heaven here & now and for all eternity?

The Foursquare Life.

PHYSICAL

Sound health and strong body

MENTAL

Creative thinking- new ideas, new ways of doing things.

The release of aluminum from its natural state

Oberlin College prof. "Aluminum has never been set free. There is A fortune awaits the man who can release aluminum." Chas.Hall

Think along definite lines of purpose and study

Reading just for amusement and haphazardly not enough. Difference bet. bookstalls in Amer. and in Russia.

Prove all things, hold fast that which is good.

Room for creative thinking in art, music, science, every-day affairs.

Social

No individual can live absolutely alone, he must mingle and hold dealings with others. He is a citizen of his country, he is a part of the community in which he lives. He belongs to his family.

Develop yourpersonality in social directions.

Consideration for others- social responsibility.

Spiritual

Paul said to his young friend, Timothy,"Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God which is within thee.""

The spark of the divine in every one of us. It needs to be awakened and utilized to complete a rounded life. Hindu legend- all men were gods but because they sinned, Brahma ordered their divinity taken away from them and hidden where they could never find it again. Suggestions-bury it deep in the earth: deep in the sea; on top of the highest mt. No,said Brahma, hide it down in man himself. He will never think to look there."

Living above the commonplace.

Strength & courage needed to live thus

WANTED

Men, Women, Boys and Girls
To go to Church regularly
Because
The Church stands for
Clean, right living
Safeguards the home
And teaches the principles of success.

Wanted